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Signed: _____	Athena E. Pretory

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
GAUSSIER, Eric et al.)	Group Art Unit: 2161
)	
Application No.: 09/982,236)	Examiner: NGUYEN, Cam Linh T.
)	
Filed: October 19, 2001)	Confirmation No. 7611
)	
For: METHODS, SYSTEMS, AND)	
ARTICLES OF MANUFACTURE FOR)	
SOFT HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERING)	
OF CO-OCCURRING OBJECTS)	

MAIL STOP RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, CA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

In association with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed herewith, the period for response having been extended to April 4, 2005 (the due date of April 2, 2005 falling on a Saturday) by a request for extension of 1 month with the Commissioner being authorized to charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 24-0037, please enter the following amendments:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 14 of this paper.